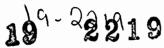
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JS 44 (Rev 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET



The IS 44 envil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		\sim		DEFENDANTS			
S.A. COMUNALE CO, INC				REDDY-BUFFALOES FIRE PUMP ET AL AND LACROSSE ENGINEERING, LLC.			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Summit County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Appling and Gwinnett							
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES (NLY) NOTE. IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
4.5	1				/		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Cipriani & Werner	Address, and Telephone Numbe			Attorneys (If Known)	(
450 Sentry Parkway, Sul	ite 200						
Blue Bell, PA 19422	(610-567-0700)						
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF PI	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendary)	
1 U.S. Government	3 Federal Question	Var - Danes	Chr	/-\	T DEF Incorporated or Pr	nneipal Place Z 4 0 4	
Plaintiff	U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citiz	cut or 1 ars 2 (are	of Business in T	/	
C 2 U.S Government	X + Diversity		Citiz	en of Another State	2 x 2 Incorporated and I	Principal Place 3 5 🕱 5	
Defendant		ip of Parties in Item III)			of Business In A		
				Citizen or Subject of a 13 (13 Foreign Nation 26 06			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	C ****		F.	reign Country	Chale have few Mutures	aftern Cada Bacariations	
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& Enforcement of Audgment 151 Medicare Act	Slander 330 Federal Employers	Personal Injury Product Liability			☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 830 Patent	1 3 4 30 Banks and Banking	
152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability	368 Asbestos Personal			35 Patent - Abbreviated	☐ 460 Deportation	
Student Loans	340 Marine	Injury Product	I		New Drug Application	(7) 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
(Excludes Veterans) S 3 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPER	TV —	LABOR	© 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY	Corrupt Organizations (7) 480 Consumer Credit	
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☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ★ 195 Contract Product Liability	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending		Act	3 862 Black Lung (923)	850 Securities/Commodities/	
190 Other Contract	Product Liability 360 Other Personal	380 Other Personal Property Damage	0 72	20 Labor/Management Relations	3 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 3 864 SSID Title XVI	Exchange 390 Other Statutory Actions	
196 Franchise	Injury	385 Property Damage	O 74	0 Railway Labor Act	☐ 865 RS1 (405(g))	391 Agricultural Acts	
1	O 362 Personal Injury	Product Ciability	O 75	1 Family and Medical		393 Environmental Marters	
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210 Land Condemnation	O 440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:		21 Employee Retirement	☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 896 Arbitration	
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/ \		560 Civil Detainee					
		Conditions of Confinement					
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)	<u> </u>			2		
X 1 Original							
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cike jurisdictional statutes unless diversity)							
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause Product Liability Breach of Warranty & Negligence.							
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint. COMPLAINT: UNDER RULE 23, FR CV P JURY DEMAND: O Yes ONo				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) MAY 22 2010							
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Case 2:19-ev-02219-Pp Document 1 Filed 05/22/19 Page 2 of 31



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

19

2219

DESIGNATION FORM

To be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 2900 Newpark	Drive, Barberton, OH 44203			
Address of Defendant:	See Attached			
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Philadelphia				
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:				
Case Number: Judge:	Date Terminated:			
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following	questions:			
 Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pend previously terminated action in this court? 	ing or within one year Yes No			
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same trapending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?	nsaction as a prior suit Yes No			
 Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action 				
Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal case filed by the same individual?	or pro se civil rights Yes No			
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is sino related this court except as noted above.				
DATE. 5/21/19 / Allorney-al-La	UVEM 53349 */Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)			
	V			
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)	•			
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:			
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA	Insurance Contract and Other Contracts Airplane Personal Injury			
3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust	3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury			
3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus	5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify):			
7. Civil Rights	7. Products Liability			
8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases	8. Products Liability - Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases			
10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases	(Please specify)			
(Please specify):				
	ON CERTIFICATION emove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)			
I, John M. Campbell , counsel of record or pro se	plaintiff, do hereby certify			
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:				
Relief other than monetary damages is sought. MAY 22 2019				
DATE 5/2-1/19 Attorney@at-Lary Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)				
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.				



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

S.A. Comunale Co. Inc.	•	CIVILACIO	11
v. Reddy-Buffaloes Fire Pump, Inc. and LaCrosse Engineering, LLC	; ; ;	NO. 19	2219

CIVII ACTION

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

Te	lephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address		
	610-567-0700	610-567-0712	jcampbell@c-wlaw.com		
Da	te	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for Plaintiff		
	5/2 9 /2019	John Ceybers	John M. Campbell	_	/ _
(f)	Standard Management	- Cases that do not fall into any one	of the other tracks.	(x)
(e)	commonly referred to a	Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) as complex and that need special or in side of this form for a detailed explanation.	ntense management by	K	ب
(d)	Asbestos - Cases involexposure to asbestos.	ving claims for personal injury or pro	operty damage from	()
(c)	e) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.				
(b)	Social Security Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.)
(a)	Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.)

(Civ. 660) 10/02



CIPRIANI & WERNER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JOHN M. CAMPBELL jcampbell@c wlaw.com

450 Sentry Parkway, Suite 200 Blue Bell, PA 19422

> Phone: (610) 567-0700 Fax. (610) 567 0712

www.C-WI.AW.com

May 21, 2019

A Mid-Atlantic Litigation Firm

Visit us online at www C WLAW com

19 2219

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Clerk, U.S. District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania US Courthouse 601 Market Street Room 2609 Philadelphia, PA 19106

> S.A. Comunale Co., Inc. v. Reddy Buffaloes Fire Pump, Inc. RE:

> > Our File No.: 3589-65632B

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have enclosed the following documents for filing:

- 1. Civil Action Complaint
- 2. Civil Cover Sheet;
- 3. Civil Action Designation
- 4. Corporate Disclosure Statement
- 5. Case Management Track Designation

I have also enclosed a disk containing the documents along with a check in the amount of \$400.00 representing the cost to commence this action.

Please return a time-stamped copy to the undersigned in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

/s/John M. Campbell

John M. Campbell

JCA/lm6 Enclosures



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

S.A. COMUNALE CO. INC. 2900 Newpark Drive

Barberton, OH 44203,

Plaintiff

v.

NO.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

19 2219

REDDY-BUFFALOES FIRE PUMP, INC. a/k/a REDDY-BUFFALOES PUMP COMPANY, INC. : a/k/a BUFFALOES FIRE PUMP, INC. 1 Dixie Drive

Baxley, GA 31513

and

LaCROSSE ENGINEERING, LLC. 3455 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Suite 305-268

Defendants

Duluth, GA 30096,



TUNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

S.A. COMUNALE CO. INC.

2900 Newpark Drive

Barberton, OH 44203,

Plaintiff

:

REDDY-BUFFALOES FIRE PUMP, INC. a/k/a REDDY-BUFFALOES PUMP COMPANY, INC.

a/k/a BUFFALOES FIRE PUMP, INC.

1 Dixie Drive Baxley, GA 31513

v.

and

LaCROSSE ENGINEERING, LLC. 3455 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Suite 305-268
Duluth, GA 30096,

Defendants

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

NO.

19

2219

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, S.A. Comunale Co., Inc., by and through its attorneys, Cipriani and Werner, P.C., hereby files the within Civil Action Complaint and avers as follows:

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, S.A. Comunale, Co., Inc., (hereinafter "Comunale") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware with a principal place of business at 2400 Newpark Drive, Barberton, OH 44203.
- 2. Defendant, Reddy-Buffaloes Fire Pump, Inc., a/k/a Reddy-Buffaloes Pump Company, Inc., a/k/a Buffaloes Fire Pump, Inc., is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Georgia with a principal place of business at 1 Dixie Drive, Baxley, GA 31513.

- Defendant, LaCrosse Engineering, LLC, is a limited liability corporation
 organized and existing under the laws of the state of Georgia with a principal place of business at
 3455 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Suite 305-268, Duluth, GA 30096.
- 4. At all times relevant hereto, plaintiff, S.A. Comunale, was under contract to install and commission a fire suppression system in the Comcast Technology Center, a new 62 story high-rise building being constructed in Philadelphia by Liberty Property Trust.
- 5. At all times relevant hereto, defendant, Reddy-Buffaloes Fire Pump, Inc., (hereinafter "RB Pump") designed, manufactured and placed in the stream of commerce heavy-duty fire pumps for the purpose of delivering water at a certain pressure to the upper floors of high-rise buildings as part of an overall fire suppression system.
- 6.. At all times relevant hereto, defendant, RB Pump sold two such pumps, Serial Nos. 15-F3423-TF5 and 15-F3422-TF5, to S.A. Comunale in connection with the fire suppression system Comunale was installing the Comcast Technology Center.
- 7. At all times relevant hereto, defendant, LaCrosse Engineering, LLC, was an engineering firm which participated in the inspection, testing and commissioning of the fire pumps in question as an agent and/or representative of the manufacturer, RB Pump, and which certified to the readiness of the pumps for operation in the overall fire protection system.
- 8. Approximately one year after installation, and prior to formal commissioning of the building, the aforementioned fire pumps failed, resulting in extensive cost to Comunale in the form of repairs, replacement, delays, and other incidental costs associated with maintaining the fire protection system in the building.
- 9. The failure of the pumps was due to the negligence, breach of express and implied warranties and negligent misrepresentations of the defendants as more fully set forth below.

JURISDICTION

- 10. This Honorable Court has jurisdiction over this lawsuit under 28 U.S.C.§ 1332 as the plaintiffs and defendants are citizens of different states and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 11. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 12. In January, 2014, Comunale was retained by Liberty Property Trust, the owner of a property located at 1800 Arch Street in Philadelphia, to install the fire protection system in the Comcast Technology Center, a new high rise planned for that site.
- 13. The specifications for that building required heavy-duty pumps to provide water to the fire protection system in the upper floors of the 62 story building.
- 14. On or about June 30, 2015, Comunale purchased two fire pumps, Serial Nos. 15-F3423-TF5 and 15-F3422-TF5, from defendant, RB Pump, for the sum of \$234,108.00. A copy of the purchase order is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 15. The aforementioned fire pumps were rated at 750 gpm@535 psi and were warranted by RB Pumps as sufficient to handle the load required for this fire protection system.
 - 16. In the purchase order, RB Pump warranted as follows:
 - 5. **Warranties:** Seller expressly warrants that all the materials and articles covered by this Order and other description or specification furnished by Buyer will be in exact accordance with such Order, description or specification and free from defects in material and/or workmanship, and merchantable. Such warranty shall survive delivery, and shall not be deemed waived either by reason of Buyer's acceptance of said materials or articles or by payment for them. Any deviations from this Order or specifications furnished hereunder, or any other exceptions or alternations must be approved in writing by Buyer's Purchasing Department. If any of Seller's products are found, at any time, to be defective in material or workmanship, or otherwise not in conformity with Buyer's

specifications, Buyer shall, in addition to any other rights which it may have under warranties or otherwise, have the right to reject and return such goods and to cancel other pending Purchase Orders without charge, at Seller's expense. Defective or non-conforming products may not be replaced by Seller without Buyer's written authorization. Buyer's right of rejection shall survive this Order and shall not be deemed waived by delivery or acceptance of, or payment for, the products and services.

- 17. Following installation of the pumps, defendant, LaCrosse Engineering, by and through its principal, agent, and/or employee, Wills LaCrosse, P.E., oversaw the alignment, testing and commissioning of the pumps.
- 18. In February of 2017, Mr. LaCrosse traveled to Philadelphia to test and align the pumps with the pump engines.
- 19. In a February 23, 2017, "Job Report" to RB Pump, Mr. LaCrosse identified the following deficiencies in the pumps:
 - 1. Parallel and angular alignment from the factory is "not good."
 - 2. "Horrible" horizontal angularity.
 - 3. Misalignment which was over six times the acceptable maximum limits reflecting "very poor workmanship on our end."
 - 4. Falk Coupling installed with bolts placed in backwards;
 - 5. Falk Coupling which was *not greased properly*, nor was the proper grease used;
 - 6. Coupling guard from the engine to the gear *did not fit properly* causing the local contractor to modify our guard to fit;
 - 7. Cooling line strainers clogged with rubber debris;
 - 8. Key slot on the Falk Coupling *cut too wide* for the key;
 - 9. Gland retention bolt not seated properly;
 - 10. Bolts inadequate to properly seat and secure the pumps to prevent vibration.

A copy of Mr. LaCrosse's February 23, 2017 "Job Report" to RB Pumps is attached hereto as Exhibit "B."

20. Despite the above defects and workmanship deficiencies, Mr. LaCrosse issued a second Job Report to Comunale and others on the same day, indicating that the system was ready

for the commissioning performance test and failing to identify any of the deficiencies relayed to RB Pump that same day. A copy of Mr. LaCrosse's second "Job Report" to Comunale, also dated February 23, 2017, is attached hereto as Exhibit "C."

- 21. Mr. LaCrosse further continued to misrepresent the extent of the problems and the repairs necessary to make the pumps operational in an email on May 2, 2018 to Chad Brewer (RB Pump) and Steven Johnson in which he stated that, "Our repair list is different than the one I sent to Joe (Comunale) this morning. I did not need to tell him that I was to fix the key slot nor increase set screw size and dimple the shaft." A copy of the May 2, 2018 email from LaCrosse is attached hereto as Exhibit "D."
- 22. In early May, 2018, Comunale was experiencing issues with the pump, including sparking of the engine coupling, which were relayed to both RB Pump and Wills LaCrosse.
- 23. Neither RB Pump nor Wills LaCrosse took any action to identify or resolve the issues raised by Comunale.
- 24. On June 6, 2018, the pumps failed completely, resulting in a total loss of fire protection capability to the upper floors of the building.
- 25. Examination of the pumps after the failure revealed extensive damage to the thrust bearings and pump shafts in both pumps, along with heat damage to surrounding parts.
- 26. It was determined after the failure that the thrust bearings and shafts were inadequate to withstand the load that was expected of this equipment and that the pumps were drastically out of alignment and well beyond permissible parameters, most likely due to the fact that they were not properly anchored.

- 27. All of the above issues were clearly documented by Mr. LaCrosse in his February 23, 2017, Job Report and were therefore, known and/or foreseeable to Mr. LaCrosse and RB Pump during the commissioning and inspections of the pumps.
- 28. In addition, the pump impellers on at least one of the units was severely damaged indicating defective design and/or manufacture of the impeller by RB Pump.
- 29. Despite this knowledge, Comunale was not made aware of these issues and continued to operate the pumps.
- 30. As a result of the failure of the pump equipment, Comunale was forced to supply 24/7 fire watches for the upper floors of the building for several months while it attempted to secure the repair and/or replacement of the equipment by RB Pump and/or LaCrosse Engineering.
- 31. As a result of the failure of the pumps, Comunale was also required to expend a great deal of money and personnel time to determine the reason for the failure and to secure the repair of the equipment or replacement equipment, including payment of transportation costs to move the equipment between Philadelphia and Georgia so that RB Pump could determine the cause and/or remedy for the failure.
- 32. As a result of the failure of the pumps, Comunale was required to expend significant amounts of money to vendors and other contractors to remediate the problem and to reinstall the equipment, including LaCrosse Engineering, which charged Comunale to have Mr. LaCrosse to come to Philadelphia to reinstall the replacement equipment.
- 33. As a result of the failure of the pumps, Comunale incurred incidental costs and delays in the completion of its contract with Liberty Property Trust and the general contractor, all to the detriment of its reputation and good will.

34. As a result of the failure of the equipment, Comunale sustained losses in excess of \$400,000.00 relative to the event, not including attorney's fees and other costs to which Comunale might be entitled.

COUNT 1

PLAINTIFF v. DEFENDANT, REDDY-BUFFALOES FIRE PUMPS, INC. BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY

- 35. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs contained in this Complaint as if same were fully set forth herein at length.
- 36. Defendant, Reddy-Buffaloes Fire Pumps, Inc., sold the products in issue to the plaintiff, Comunale, and delivered those products on or about July 7, 2015. The units were installed in or about 2017.
- 37. Defendant, RB Pump, expressly warranted the merchantability of the products and further warranted that they would be free from all defects in material and/or workmanship. See Exhibit "A."
- 38. Plaintiff, Comunale, notified defendant, RB Pump, immediately of its breach of warranty upon failure of the equipment on June 6, 2018.
- 39. Plaintiff, Comunale, relied upon the warranties made by defendant, RB Pump, both written and verbal, that the products were merchantable and free from defects in either materials or workmanship.
- 40. The losses sustained by Comunale as described above were due to the sale by RB Pump of defective products which were not suitable for their intended purpose and that were manufactured contrary to the warranties made by defendant, RB Pump.

- 41. Defendant, RB Pump, represented that the pumps it manufactured were suitable for heavy-duty fire protection situations consistent with the specifications of the Comcast Technology Center.
- 42. The subject pumps failed less than three (3) months after the inspection by LaCrosse Engineering and after limited use, which clearly evidenced that the products were not suitable for this particular project as represented by the defendants.
- 43. The subject pumps were unfit for the purposes intended and contained defects in both materials and workmanship, and therefore plaintiff is entitled to recovery of the purchase price and/or cost of replacement of the pumps, whichever is greater, and any and all resulting consequential damages.
- 44. As a result of the foregoing, defendant, RB Pump is liable to the plaintiff for the breach of express warranties.
- 45. As a result of defendant's breach of warranty, plaintiff suffered significant losses, including cost of replacement, repair, personnel time to remedy the lack of fire protection and to restore the fire protection system to comply with its own contract with the building owners and contractor.
- 46. As a result of defendant's breach of warranty, and failure to remedy said breach, plaintiff, Comunale, has been obligated to spend significant amount of personnel and attorney time to remedy the situation and pursue defendants for recovery of those damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, S.A. Comunale Co., Inc., hereby demands judgment in its favor and against defendants for compensatory damages together with costs, interest, attorney's fees and any other damages allowed by law.

COUNT II

PLAINTIFF v. REDDY-BUFFALOES FIRE PUMP, INC.

BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES

- 47. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs contained in this Complaint as if same were fully set forth herein at length.
- 48. Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Commercial Code, 13 Pa. CS. § 2314-2315, defendant, RB Pump, impliedly warranted the merchantability of the product and its fitness for a particular purpose.
- 49. Defendant, Reddy-Buffaloes Fire Pumps, Inc., sold the products in issue to the plaintiff, Comunale, and delivered those products on or about July 7, 2015. The units were installed in or about 2017.
- 50. Defendant, RB Pump, impliedly warranted the merchantability of the products and that they were fit for the particular purpose in this project.
- 51. Plaintiff, Comunale, notified defendant, RB Pump, immediately of its breach of warranty upon failure of the equipment on June 6, 2018.
- 52. Plaintiff, Comunale, relied upon the implied warranties made by defendant, RB Pump, that the products were merchantable and fit for a particular purpose.
- 53. The losses sustained by Comunale as described above were due to the sale by RB Pump of defective products which were not suitable for their intended purpose and that were manufactured contrary to the implied warranties made by defendant, RB Pump.
- 54. Defendant, RB Pump, impliedly warranted that the pumps it manufactured were suitable for heavy-duty fire protection situations consistent with the specifications of the Comcast Technology Center.

- 55. The subject pumps failed less than three (3) months after the inspection by LaCrosse Engineering and after limited use, which clearly evidenced that the products were not suitable for this particular project as represented by the defendants.
- 56. The subject pumps were unfit for the purposes intended and contained defects in both materials and workmanship, and therefore plaintiff is entitled to recovery of the purchase price and/or cost of replacement of the pumps, whichever is greater, and any and all resulting consequential damages.
- 57. As a result of the foregoing, defendant, RB Pump is liable to the plaintiff for the breach of implied warranties.
- 58. As a result of defendant's breach of warranty, plaintiff suffered significant losses, including cost of replacement, repair, personnel time to remedy the lack of fire protection and to restore the fire protection system to comply with its own contract with the building owners and contractor.
- 59. As a result of defendant's breach of warranty, and failure to remedy said breach, plaintiff, Comunale, has been obligated to spend significant amount of personnel and attorney time to remedy the situation and pursue defendants for recovery of those damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, S.A. Comunale Co., Inc., hereby demands judgment in its favor and against defendants for compensatory damages together with costs, interest, attorney's fees and any other damages allowed by law.

COUNT III

PLAINTIFF v. DEFENDANTS, REDDY-BUFFALOES FIRE PUMP, INC., AND LaCROSSE ENGINEERING

NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION

- 60. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs contained in this Complaint as if same were fully set forth herein at length.
- 61. Prior to the failure of the subject pumps, representatives of LaCrosse Engineering, LLC, including but not limited to its principal, Wills LaCrosse, inspected, tested and performed alignment on the subject pumps and found numerous deficiencies in the manufacture, workmanship and materials utilized.
- 62. Wills LaCrosse communicated these deficiencies to RB Pump in a Job Report on February 23, 2017. See Exhibit "B".
- 63. Despite these numerous and serious problems with the workmanship and design of the pumps, neither Mr. LaCrosse, nor RB Pump, communicated these issues to Comunale so as to prevent the potential failure of the units in the future.
- 64. In fact, Mr. LaCrosse negligently omitted these deficiencies when he issued a second Job Report that same day to Comunale and approved the pumps for further testing and operation. <u>See Exhibit</u> "C."
- 65. The potential failure of the pumps was clearly foreseeable to LaCrosse

 Engineering and RB Pump at the time of Mr. LaCrosse's inspection and commissioning and

 Mr. LaCrosse and RB Pump owed a duty to Comunale to relay any and all deficiencies at that
 time.

- 66. Defendants, LaCrosse Engineering, LLC, and Reddy-Buffaloes Fire Pump, Inc., negligently misrepresented the condition, functionality and workmanship of the pumps in question which caused Comunale significant damages in the repair, replacement of the pumps and protection of the subject building.
- 67. Defendants' misrepresentation of the condition of the pumps and/or their ability to perform as warranted, caused plaintiff to suffer the losses outlined above.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, S.A. Comunale Co., Inc., hereby demands judgment in its favor and against defendants for compensatory damages together with costs, interest, attorney's fees and any other damages allowed by law.

COUNT IV

PLAINTIFF v. LaCROSSE ENGINEERING, LLC

NEGLIGENCE

- 68. Defendant, LaCrosse Engineering, LLC, represented to plaintiff that it was qualified to inspect, commission and operate said pumps and to identify any operating or manufacturing deficiencies.
- 69. Defendant, LaCrosse Engineering, was negligent in failing to identify and/or rectify deficiencies in the manufacturing or installation of said pumps which resulted in the failure of the pumps and the damages sustained by the plaintiff.
- 70. Prior to the failure of the subject pumps, representatives of LaCrosse Engineering, LLC, including but not limited to its principal, Wills LaCrosse, inspected, tested and performed alignment on the subject pumps and found numerous deficiencies in the manufacture, workmanship and materials utilized in the manufacture of the subject pumps.

- 71. Wills LaCrosse communicated these deficiencies to RB Pump in a Job Report on February 23, 2017. *See Exhibit "B"*.
- 72. Despite these numerous and serious problems with the workmanship and design of the pumps, neither Mr. LaCrosse, nor RB Pump, failed to recognize the significance of the issues and failed to either remedy the issues or communicate the issues to Comunale so as to prevent the potential failure of the units in the future.
- 73. In fact, Mr. LaCrosse negligently omitted these deficiencies when he issued a second Job Report that same day to Comunale and approved the pumps for further testing and operation. See Exhibit "C."
- 74. Based upon the February 23rd Job Report, the potential failure of the pumps was clearly foreseeable to LaCrosse Engineering and RB Pump at the time of Mr. LaCrosse's inspection and commissioning and Mr. LaCrosse and RB Pump owed a duty to Comunale to relay any and all deficiencies at that time.
- 75. Defendants, LaCrosse Engineering, LLC, and Reddy-Buffaloes Fire Pump, Inc., negligence in failure to notify Comunale of the condition, functionality and workmanship of the pumps in question, or failure to remedy the conditions caused Comunale significant damages in the repair, replacement of the pumps and protection of the subject building as outlined above.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, S.A. Comunale Co., Inc., hereby demands judgment in its favor and against defendants for compensatory damages together with costs, interest, attorney's fees and any other damages allowed by law.

Respectfully submitted,

CIPRIANI & WERNER, P.C.

By: /s/Sohn M. Campbell

John M. Campbell (JC1088)

Darren L. Harrison

450 Sentry Parkway West, Suite 200

Blue Bell, PA 19422

Attorneys for Plaintiff, S.A. Comunale Co., Inc.

EXHIBIT A

mc E-mail Brook

Equal Opportunity Employer



PURCHASE ORDER		
DATE P.O. Number		
6/30/2015 298324		

SELLER

BUYER

SHIP TO

Attention Steven Johnson Buffaloes Fire Pump Inc. 1 Dixle Drive PO Box 557 Baxley, GA 31513 SA Comunale Philadelphia 603 Ryan Avenue Westville, NJ 08093 Phone (800)299-9216 Fax (856)848-1175 Attention Joe Kiczek
SA Comunale Philadelphia
603 Ryan Avenue
Westville, NJ 08093

Phone: 912-367-6345 x308 Fax: 912-367-5024

IMPORTANT

Read all terms and conditions on front and other pages. Only such terms and conditions shall constitute the agreement between the parties

Falcon Ticket Number	Ordered By	Date Required
	tonya sole@comunale.com	10/5/2015
Job/Equipment Number	Job Name	Area of Fab
56072065	COMCAST 2	HOLD FOR APPROVAL

Part Number	Description	Quantity	Rate	Amount
XX	Fire Pumps - Per Attached Quote (Dated 11/21/14) With Comments	25	118,616.50	\$237,233 00
XX	Rev #1 - Equipment revised per owner review dated 08/11/15 and Reddy- Buffaloes revised submittal dated 08/12/15	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
XX	Attached "Consent to Assignment and Assumption" must be signed and returned	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
XX	Rev 2 - Delete Fuel Oil Tanks	2	(\$3,750.00)	(\$7,500.00)
XX	25% Restock Charge for the Tanks	1	\$1,875 00	\$1 875 00
XX	Shipping Costs to be Adjusted	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
XX	S. A. Comunale Co., Inc. to Arrange Carrier to Pickup Fire Pumps for Delivery	1	\$0 00	\$0.00

Sub Total \$231,608 00
Tax Rate 0%
Shipping Costs \$2,500 00

Purchase Order Total: \$234,108.00

Notes for Purchase Order:

Please contact Joe Kiczek directly @ 330-352-8803, regarding ship date, shipping address, etc.

Buyer

Seller

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	1)0-		
Ву			
	Jeff Klein, Purchasing Manager		
Please visit our website at. http://			

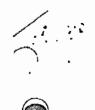
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Acceptance. Any delivery pursuant to this purchase order (Order) shall be conclusively deemed acceptance of the Order and terms and conditions thereof. The materials, products, goods or services covered by this Order shall be referred to as the "goods". All goods shall be received subject to Buyer's right of inspection and rejection. Defective goods or goods not in accordance with Buyer's specifications will be held for Seller's instruction at Seller's risk and if Seller so directs, will be returned at Seller's expense. If inspection discloses that part of the goods received are not in accordance with Buyer's specifications, Buyer shall have the right to cancel any unshipped portion of the Order. Payment for goods on this Order prior to inspection shall not constitute acceptance thereof and is without prejudice to any and all claims that Buyer may have against Seller.
- Price: Seller agrees to invoice Buyer in accordance with the price stated in this Order. Invoices must be rendered in duplicate not later than the day following shipment. Seller shall attach a bill of lading or express receipt to each invoice. If Seller fails to issue an invoice, it is agreed that the price will be that stated in this Order. If a price is not stated in this Order, it is agreed that the goods shall be billed at the price will be that stated in this Order. It is Order must not be filled at a higher price than last quoted or charged without Buyer's specific written authorization. In the event Seller charges a higher price than specified in the Order. Buyer shall not be responsible for payment until Seller re-invoices at the proper price. No additional charges of any kind, including charges for boxing, cartage or other extras will be allowed unless specifically agreed to in writing in advance by Buyer. Even though Seller's quoted price may include freight, startup and other similar nontaxable items, all invoices must be itemized so that freight, startup and other nontaxable items can be identified.
- Payment: It is understood that the cash discount period will date from the receipt of goods or from the date of the invoice, whichever is later C-O-D shipments will not be accepted. Drafts will not be honored
- Delivery Instructions. Seller agrees to deliver materials stated in this Order by the date and price stated in this Order. Seller owns the materials stated in this Order until actual delivery to Buyer. Packing slips must be included in all shipments and the last copy must state "ORDER COMPLETED." The Order number must be shown on each package, packing slip and invoice. Deliveries must be made to Buyer's receiving room, not to individuals or departments. The specific quantity ordered must be delivered in full and not be changed without Buyer's consent in writing. If multiple orders are sent under a single packing slip, then Seller must reference each individual purchase order number. Any unauthorized quantity is subject to Buyer's rejection and return at Seller's expense.
- 5. Warranties: Seller expressly warrants that all the materials and articles covered by this Order or other description or specification furnished by Buyer will be in exact accordance with such Order, description or specification and free from defects in material and/or workmanship, and merchantable. Such warranty shall survive delivery, and shall not be deemed waived either by reason of Buyer's acceptance of said materials or articles or by payment for them. Any deviations from this Order or specifications furnished hereunder, or any other exceptions or alterations must be approved in writing by Buyer's Purchasing Department. If any of Seller's products are found, at any time, to be defective in material or workmanship, or otherwise not in conformity with Buyer's specifications, Buyer shall, in addition to any other rights which it may have under warranties or otherwise, have the right to reject and return such goods and to cancel other pending Purchase Orders without charge, at Seller's expense. Defective or nonconforming products may not be replaced by Seller without Buyer's written authorization. Buyer's right of rejection shall survive this Order and shall not be deemed waived by delivery or acceptance of, or payment for, the products and services.
- 6 Patents. Seller warrants the material purchased hereunder does not infringe any letters patent granted by the United States and Seller coverants and agrees to save harmless and protect Buyer, its successors, assigns, customers and users of its product, against any claim or demand based upon such intringement, and after notice, to appear and defend at its own expense any such suits at law or in equity arising therefrom.
- suits at law or in equity arising therefrom.

 7 Fair Labor Standards Act. Seller agrees that goods shipped to Buyer under this Order will be produced in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Applicable Laws: Seller represents that the merchandise covered by this Order is not being sold or priced in violation of any
 federal, state or local law.
- 9. Cancellation. Buyer reserves the right to cancel all or any part of the undelivered portion of this Order if Seller does not make deliveries as specified, time being of the essence of this Order and contract, or if Seller breaches any of the terms hereof including, without limitation, the warrantes of Seller Seller acknowledges that Buyer's production schedules are based upon Seller's commitment that materials and services will be delivered to Buyer on dates specified herein. Time is and shall remain of the essence. If deliveries pursuant to this Order will not be made at the time agreed upon. Buyer reserves the right to cancel the Order, purchase the items contained in this Order elsewhere and to hold Seller accountable therefore. Deliveries that are late or in greater or lesser quantities than ordered or are nonconforming may be returned by Buyer without charge, at Seller's expense.
- 10 Interpretation of Contract and Assignments. This Order and contract shall be construed according to the laws of the State of Ohio. This Order and contract may not be assigned without Buyer's written consent. Any action arising out of this purchase order must be brought in the state courts located in Summit County, Ohio. Seller consents that those courts will have personal jurisdiction over Seller with respect to any such action.
- 11 Buyer's Purchase Order Controls. The Terms & Conditions of Buyer's Purchase Order control. Buyer does not accept or agree to any counteroffers, proposals, terms or conditions contained in any Sellier's acknowledgement, acceptance, confirmation, or the like. The Terms & Conditions of Buyer's Purchase Order prevail and control in the event of any perceived conflict of terms.

End of Terms and Conditions of Buyer's Purchase Order

EXHIBIT B



Job Report: Comcast Tower, 1800 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA Work Performed; 2/23/2017

Pump Inspection

RB Pump, SN: 15-F3423-TF5, 6x5TF, 750gpm@535psi, 580psi/345psi, CCW, 14.75"dia, 3120rpm, Cummins CFP15E-F10 (QSX15), SN: 79869919, 488HP@2100rpm, Tornatech Controller Z144781, De'Ran Gear Drive, 1:1.455gear ratio, Watts1", LF-N45B-M1 regulating valve

RB Pump, SN: 15-F3422-TF5, 750gpm@535psi, CCW, Cummins CFP15E-F10, Tornatech Controller Z144780, De'Ran Gear drive, 1:1.455 gear ratio

15-F3423 - FACTORY Comments

- 1.) BAD ALIGNMENT. The parallel and angular alignment from the factory was not good. I needed to lower the engine to achieve angular alignment. Shims were found but not enough but the engine could not be lowered. I had to tilt the pump using hydraulic jacks on the pump and connected piping to get it angled properly. The horizontal angularity was also horrible and required the engine to be shifted by over 1-1/2" at the back of the engine. I had to get a hot work permit, use a cutting torch, and cut (4) new holes in the base to solve this problem. This extra work could have been avoided if it was properly aligned at the FACTORY. REMEMBER FALK couplings require a max mis-alignment of .008 " parallel or angular!! We sent out a product that was 6 times over that limit! It reflects very poor workmanship on our end.
- 2.) The Falk Coupling was installed with the bolts placed in backwards.
- 3.) The Falk coupling was not greased properly nor was the proper grease used. This coupling requires very special grease. I had none in the field. I just added 3X more non-special grease to get the correct lubrication coverage. On every Falk coupling in the future.... Use their special grease and apply the proper amount. Customers have no clue where to get the special grease. The couplings heat up if the proper amount is not used.
- 4.) As before on the other unit, the coupling guard from the engine to the gear did not fit properly. The local Contractor had to modify our guard to fit.
- 5.) I would like to recommend that on every diesel unit tested in the future we check our cooling line strainers for debris before shipping!!! This engine's cooling line was clogged with bits of rubber debris that looked as though it had come from an old gasket from our test pit. The debris blew out the strainer and damaged the pressure regulator. I indicated that the material was from their piping system. If we check our strainers, then we can be 100% positive that the debris did not come from our test pit.
- 6.) The key slot on the Falk coupling was cut too wide for the key. The measured dimension was .341". The key was a 3/8" key. The shaft key slot was cut correctly and the key was tight. The .016" of slop between the key and the coupling allows the coupling hub to wiggle by ½" on its OD. The two set screws were tightened as much as possible in order to keep it from wiggling. I did not have time to fabricate a special "step" key to take up the slop. If you are concerned about this mistake we could send someone back up to the site to correct the condition.
- 7.) Hydrostatic Test? The pump discharge pressure was 620psi. At 620psi leaks developed at the parting flange gasket and in the cavity at the gland bolt. The gland retention bolt was not seated properly since the area under the bolt head was not spot-faced. The bolt is too close to the side of the casing. When you build the next unit, please have this area spot-faced and do a hydro test that will match what the customer will experience when the City Supply pressure is added.

Signed: ____ Wills La Crosse, P.E.



EXHIBIT C



Job Report: Comcast Tower, 1800 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA

Work Performed: 2/23-25/2017

Pump Inspection

RB Pump, SN: 15-F3423-TF5, 6x5TF, 750gpm@535psi, 580psi/345psi, CCW, 14.75"dia, 3120rpm, Cummins CFP15E-F10 (QSX15), SN: 79869919, 488HP@2100rpm, Tornatech Controller Z144781, D'Ran Gear Drive, 1:1.455gear ratio

RB Pump, SN: 15-F3422-TF5, 750gpm@535psi, CCW, Cummins CFP15E-F10, Tornatech Controller, 600psi transducer, D'Ran Gear drive, 1:1.455 gear ratio

Work Performed

02/23 - F3423: 7AM-6PM

This fire pump operates at 3120rpm and is driven by a Cummins engine at 2100rpm through a speed increasing gear drive mounted between them.

The visual inspection was good.

The alignment process was begun. The final alignment amounts achieved are as follows: pump to gear -.008parailel@0deg & .010@90deg angular; gear to engine -.012"parallel@0deg, .010angular@0deg. The pump had to be angled slightly. The engine had to be re-located horizontally by 1.25 and all new holes cut into the base to secure the engine. Initial alignment was .021"parallel(engine to gear), .015"parallel(gear to pump), .050"angular (engine to gear), and .020"angular (gear to pump). The Falk alignment requirements require installation to be .008" for parallel & angular with a field limit of .016" angular and parallel. The hub spacing target dimension is .125". The closest spacing the engine to gear achievable was .190". The gear to pump was .125".

The Cummins Tech was at the site and prepared the engine for an initial start. JIC fittings (3/4"m-JICx1/2"Fnpt) were supplied by the Cummins Tech in order to connect from the engine to the fuel piping. The flex lines from the engine to the fuel piping were not the ones provided with the original engine package. The grout will be placed later. The pump and gear were ready for engine starting by the afternoon.

The unit was started and operated for a short period of time. All systems were checked and the unit was performing properly. Shut down was needed due to lack of cooling water. The pump and engine require a minimum of 30gpm of cooling water at shutoff conditions.

The cooling line strainers were opened and found to be 100% clogged with small pieces of rubber. One of the strainer screens had failed and allowed additional rubber to infiltrate to the pressure regulator. The regulator was inspected and its strainer was also clogged. All the material was removed and the items were re-assembled.

When re-running the system, the cooling water was still not sufficient for the system. All lines from the pump to the loop were checked and found to be clear. A pressure gauge was installed in place of the air release valve to monitor the pressure after the ½" pump tap at the cross-over (close to 300psi = normal & un-clogged).

After several more cleanings, the regulator valves were found to be the problem. Both are recommended to be replaced. The one with the undamaged screen showed signs of internal corrosion which may have affected proper operation. The one with the clogged screen had been damaged due to the impact of the debris. The valves are a Size 1, Watts, 1", LF-N45B-M1, set at 60psi.

Until the valves are replaced, the by-pass line valve has been removed and replaced with a spool piece.





Comments

- Additional debris may still be in the system. All strainers on both units should be checked on a regular
 basis until the operators are confident that the debris has been removed. Please remember that this
 high HP, high pressure system requires much more cooling water than normal systems. A five minute
 delay in providing adequate cooling water to the pump is able to elevate its temperature beyond
 180deg which will starve the engine of its ability to keep its temperate at its regulated temperature at
 180degF.
- Because of the cooling issue and until the cooling water pressure regulating valves are replaced, it is recommended for operators to monitor the cooling water very carefully whenever the pump is operated. When starting in automatic mode, personnel must be in-place within 5 minutes of pump operation or risk overheating causing potential system damage.
- The box drains were piped in galvanized. It is recommended to re-pipe these drains in un-glued PVC
 to allow ease in clearing future clogs. The galvanized piping itself is easy to clog while PVC generally
 will remain clog free. NFPA 20 allows use of PVC for this function.
- The packing was not adjusted during the initial runs on the 23rd but was adjusted after testing on the 25th.
- The raw water cooling lines were shifted during the alignment process. All lines were re-anchored before the 25th.
- 6. The system is ready for the commissioning performance test.

Signed: ____ Wills Licerosse, P.E.





EXHIBIT D

chad brewer

5-2-18 Wills To ChAD



Wills LaCrosse <willslac@gmail.com> Wednesday, May 02, 2018 7:58 AM Chad Brewer, Steven Johnson; sales Fwd: 1800 Arch Street

INTERNAL R-B

Guys - Joe called me last night. The building is being turned over in three weeks. He needs help in two areas:

- 1) The Cummins engine folks need to return to diagnose a governor issue on the engine. They say the engine "surges" while running. The local Cummins dealer charges up-front, and Warranty credit never seems to come back to reimburse them. They are tired of getting scammed by the Dealer. Can you exert any pressure from Wisconsin to the local dealer directly to help with their issue. Remind them that this is the tallest building in PA and a very visible project (Comcast headquarters).
- 2) They can't diagnose the engine without the pump exerting a load to test the governor. Currently the pump is not in running condition. Do you want to send me up to PA to fix the pump? From the pictures they took, the shaft's paint color changed next to the glands. My guess is that the bearing was cooked from the heat of the friction against the bearing housing from the coupling hub. Now, the coupling hub was not able to hold its original position from the set screws. I confirm that the set screws were super-tight when I set them at Commissioning but I had serious reservations at the time that they would hold considering the forces involved from the unit against the small set screws.

amage needing repair = possible bad bearing + set screw(s) too small and not dimpled into shaft + key slot not oper width to contact the key on pump coupling hub + replace worn down bearing cartridge bolts

To "fix" the damage: Disconnect both couplings and piping to the parallel gear (3hrs), remove the parallel gear (estim 300 lbs, 3hrs), pull the pump coupling hub (1hr), pull and replace the IB bearing (3hrs), purchase new pump coupling hub with properly sized set screws and proper key slot width (remember my comment about the sloppy key on my report (find machine shop to broach the proper key slot width in PA 10hrs), re-assemble all parts (possible 10hrs), re-align gear drive to engine and pump (6hrs), dimple new set screws to shaft to hold better in place (1hr), test unit (4hr). ----- estimated 38hrs of work plus travel and expenses. It's potentially a full week of labor in Philadelphia.

Our repair list is different than the one I sent to Joe this morning. I did not need to tell him that I was to fix the key slot nor increase set screw size and dimple the shaft.

Also, Joe told me last night that the other engine's coupling has also started to generate sparks -

They essentially have no fire protection in the upper floors of the 80 story building if this is true.

If you want to pay for my trip let me know... \$10,800 for me to fix the one unit.

I will also need a radial bearing and could use a replacement coupling hub for the pump side.

